

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of responding to a URL request:
receiving the URL request from a client computer;
determining a cache in a cache array that stores a URL corresponding to the URL request; and
redirecting the URL request to the determined cache.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cache array comprises a plurality of caches and provides for redirection among the plurality of caches.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the cache array is a Cache Array Routing Protocol based array.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the cache is determined by executing a deterministic algorithm.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the deterministic algorithm is a Cache Array Routing Protocol algorithm.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the URL request is received from an Internet web browser executed on said client computer.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining is executed by a network processor that is transparent to said client computer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the network processor is not part of the cache array.

9. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause the processor, after receiving a URL request from a client computer, to:

determine a cache in a cache array that stores a URL corresponding to the URL request; and

redirect the URL request to the determined cache.

10. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the cache array comprises a plurality of caches and provides for redirection among the plurality of caches.

11. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the cache array is a Cache Array Routing Protocol based array.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the cache is determined by executing a deterministic algorithm.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the deterministic algorithm is a Cache Array Routing Protocol algorithm.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein the URL request is received from an Internet web browser executed on said client computer.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 9, wherein said determining is executed by a network processor that is transparent to said client computer.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein the network processor is not part of the cache array.

17. A communication network comprising:

a network processor; and

a cache array coupled to said network processor;

wherein said network processor is programmed to receive a URL request from a client computer, determine a cache in the cache array that stores a URL corresponding to the URL request, and redirect the URL request to the determined cache.

18. The communication network of claim 17, wherein said network processor is not part of said cache array.

19. The communication network of claim 17, wherein said cache array comprises a plurality of cache servers.

20. The communication network of claim 17, wherein said cache array is a Cache Array Routing Protocol based array.

21. The communication network of claim 17, wherein said network processor is transparent to the client computer.

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